

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00005 021453Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /049 W

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R 021310Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4587

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY BALNTYRE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, SF, LT

SUBJ: LESOTHO MINE WORKERS UNION

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1292

1. DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT LABOR ORGANIZATIONS INDICATED LITTLE OR NOTHING KNOWN ABOUT LESOTHO-BASED MINE WORKERS UNION CITED REFTEL. IF SUCH UNION DOES GAIN IMPORTANCE DOUBT EITHER GOL OR SAG WILL ALLOW IT TO PLAY ROLE THAT MIGHT SERIOUSLY UPSET PRESENT MINE LABOR ARRANGEMENTS WHICH OF ADVANTAGE TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

2. ANY REAL CHANGES IN MIGRANT MINE LABOR SYSTEM LIKELY TO RESULT ONLY FROM NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA. NEGOTIATORS FROM EACH SIDE MET IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS MINE CAREER SYSTEM TO REPLACE PRESENT
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PAGE 02 MASERU 00005 021453Z

CONTRACT RESTRICTION OF TWO YEARS AND ALSO FRINGE BENEFITS,

INCLUDING MORE FREQUENT TRIPS HOME TO SEE FAMILIES.

3. ALSO APPARENTLY DISCUSSED WERE POSSIBILITIES OF MOVING FAMILIES WITH MINERS TO MINE SITES, HEALTH AND RETIREMENT PROGRAMS, AND BASIC TRAINING FOR MINERS AT HOME. LESOTHO WAITING FOR SAG TO TAKE NEXT STEP TOWARDS REACHING AGREEMENT ON THESE POINTS. SENIOR GOL OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH TALKS SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTED THAT SAG NOT YET HEAR FROM BUT REMAINS HOPEFUL GOVERNMENTS CAN COOPERATE TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR LESOTHO'S ESTIMATED 110,000 CITIZENS WORKING IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES. HAUGHT

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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